

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-09 ISO-00 AGR-05 EB-07 AID-05

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TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, FAO, PK

SUBJECT: FAO DIRECTOR GENERAL NOMINATIONS

REF: ISLAMABAD 1137

ROME FOR FODAG

1. SITUATION WITH REGARD ELECTION NEW FAO DG IS FAST MOVING BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, GROWING MORE MURKY THAN CLEAR. WE HAD HEARD GOP WAS WEIGHING CHANCES OF AZIZ AND HAVE BEEN ADVISED NEW ZEALAND WILL PROBABLY PROPOSE ERIC OJALA, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL POLICY DEPARTMENT. LIKE OJALA, AZIZ IS REGARDED AS QUITE CAPABLE AND BOTH ARE WELL KNOWN TO AND RESPECTED BY USG OFFICIALS.

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2. AZIZ SERVED CREDITABLY AS ONE OF THREE DEPUTIES TO

WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SECRETARY-GENERAL MAREI IN 1974.
THIS PERSONAL ENCOUNTER AND PERFORMANCE IS PROBABLY WHY
MAREI NOW ENCOURAGING HIS NOMINATION BY GOP. MAREI ACTION,
HOWEVER, SEEMS COUNTER TO ARAB LEAGUE ENDORSEMENT OF
SAOUMA (LEBANON). GOP ITSELF IS REPORTEDLY COMMITTED BY
1974 ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DECISION TO SUPPORTING SAOUMA.

3. OTHER COMMENTS REACHING WASHINGTON INDICATE STILL
ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES MIGHT SURFACE BEFORE APRIL 10
DEADLINE FOR FILING. WE ARE WATCHING SITUATION CLOSELY
BUT EXERCISING EXTREME CAUTION. DATE AFTER APRIL 10
WHEN WE WOULD BE ABLE INDICATE PREFERENCE FOR ANY PARTIC-
ULAR CANDIDATE IS YET UNCERTAIN.

4. OUR CONTACTS TO DATE LEAD US BELIEVE THAT, SINCE
NETHERLANDS NATIONAL HAS HELD POST FOR EIGHT YEARS, ANY
DEVELOPED COUNTRY NOMINEE WOULD HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTY
IN GAINING ELECTION. IN SUM WE REGARD AZIZ AS WELL
QUALIFIED FOR THIS POSITION BUT ARE NOT PREPARED OFFER
ENCOURAGEMENT TO HIM OR OTHER CANDIDATE AT THIS TIME. INGERSOLL

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